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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) An optical information recording medium, comprising a first information layer, a second information layer, ..., and an n-th information layer (where n is an integer of 3 or greater), in that order, on a substrate, with each of these separated by an intermediate layer, with which the recording and reproduction of information are performed by causing laser light to be incident from the n-th information layer side,

wherein all of the information layers have a recording layer composed of a material containing Te, O, and M (where M is one or more elements selected from among Al, Si, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, Ga, Ge, Zr, Nb, Mo, Ru, Rh, Pd, Ag, In, Sn, Sb, Hf, Ta, W, Re, Os, Ir, Pt, Au, and Bi), and

$$M_n \geq \dots \geq M_2 \geq M_1 \text{ and } M_1 \neq M_n$$

are satisfied, where M_1 is the compositional ratio of the material M in the first information layer, M_2 is the compositional ratio of the material M in the second information layer, ..., and M_n is the compositional ratio of the material M in the n-th information layer, wherein

M_k is at least 2 atom% greater than M_{k-1} ($1 \leq k \leq n-2 \leq k \leq n$).

26. (Previously Presented) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 25, wherein M_k is at least 4 atom% greater than M_{k-1} .

27. (Previously Presented) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 25, wherein the thickness of the recording layers is at least 1 nm and no more than 50 nm.

28. (Previously Presented) The optical information recording medium according to Claim 25, wherein at least one of the first to n-th information layers has a protective layer on the substrate side of the recording layer and/or the opposite side from the substrate side, and

the protective layer is composed of a material with a refractive index n of at least 1.5.